

Library & Community Hub Report - February 2023

Exciting stats to share this month.

January 2022, we issued 808 books, this year 1426 - an **increase of 618**. Our new borrower figures **increased by 43**. Our promotion 'New Year, New Hobby' was a great success and it was pleasing to see our figures soar after they had dropped during December.

Library Stats

	All issues - LOOE ONLY	All issues - ALL SITES	New borrowers. -LOOE ONLY	New borrowers - ALL SITES	PN reservations - LOOE ONLY	PN reservations - ALL SITES	Service requests (dashboard) - LOOE ONLY	Service requests (dashboard) - ALL SITES	CC Process requests (Lagan) - LOOE ONLY	CC Process requests (Lagan)- ALL SITES	Number of Events	Total events footfall
January	1,426	162,498	46	1,212	18	5,107					19	99
February												
March												
April												
May												
June												
July												
August												
September												
October												
November												
December												
Total	1426	162498	46	1212		5107	0	0	0	0	19	99

Library & Community Hub Footfall - January = 1684

Clubs

Our numbers for **Stories & Songs** are increasing weekly. Donna's previous experience working with Early Years is proving to be a huge bonus.

Our Thursday afternoon group, **Knit & Natter**, is also growing in number.

Lego Club continues on Saturdays with a handful of regulars.

Other Groups

Emma & Mandy, from **Health Works for Cornwall** use the small office upstairs fortnightly on Tuesdays, meeting clients by appointment.

After a successful preliminary visit, **WAWY** will be using our small office upstairs, fortnightly on Tuesdays for appointments with clients, on a trial basis.

Meet the Councillors Drop-In sessions are currently on hold until further notice.

Visit Looe

We were busy with tourist information enquiries during February Half Term, with enquiries over the phone, via email and in person.

Our trailer has been cleaned and refreshed and we will soon stock it with updated leaflets ready for opening again as the weather gets warmer.

Warm Space

After a 3 month run, our Warm Space will cease at the end of February. We are extremely grateful to Councillors and Looe Lions for volunteering. Although numbers have been minimal, the few who did come to our Warm Space said they found it welcoming and a comfort. Of course, we will continue to offer people a place to sit, be warm and charge their phone etc, as we have always done.

As you will be aware, in Looe, the church community offer one-off Warm Space events (such as their sausage & mash night on 25th Feb), the Haven (Above Simply Fish), offer a Warm Space with a Food Bank on Mondays & Wednesdays and we also have the Community Tea Room, Monday – Friday in the Rose Garden. Perhaps there wasn't such a huge need for our own Warm Space because our community already offers so much – good news!

Outreach

Donna has arranged with **West Looe Playgroup** for a group of 10 children to visit the library on the afternoon of Friday 10th March, when we are closed to the public. If this is successful, we hope to make this a regular event. Hopefully this will open another door for some new young borrowers and their families.

I have met with Patricia McCarthy, who runs the **Community Tea Rooms** and is Secretary of **Age Concern at Looe Social Club** on Tuesdays. I have spoken to Audrey Wharmby who runs the **Derby & Joan Club** on Fridays. To both, I have offered our services – making posters, advertising on our 'What's On' board in the foyer and on Facebook. I am working on putting together a **Community Groups Leaflet**. This information is already on our website so the leaflet would be for those new to Looe who prefer a paper version.

Following up from last year, I have been in contact Old Bridge Surgery to request they promote our **Home Library Delivery Service**, both inside the surgery and by share leaflets with patients on home visits. In brief, this service is where we choose books for the customer – after a phone call to discuss what they would like - then our volunteer, Andy Godsall, delivers the books fortnightly to their own homes and to the local care homes. We have recently updated this information on the LTC Website. We only have a few members currently using this service and would like our library service to reach as many housebound as possible.

I am still working on improving communications with **Looe Primary School**, who continue to be very unresponsive. I won't give up!

Other News

We hosted two successful events during **National Storytelling Week** with two very well-attended sessions. Donna ran a **Build a Story Workshop** using puppets which the children loved and we held a creative **Storytelling & Craft Session**, led by a **local children's author, Jenny Leggot**.

Tania has given our **Cornish Book Section** an eye-catching new look with subheadings written in Cornish. A tuneful Facebook post went out and the promotion has been a success as we are issuing many more Cornish books than usual.

Sharon has produced a new **Welcome Tri-fold Leaflet** to share with people when they join the library. A '**What's On**' slip accompanies this which will be updated monthly with community events, providing another means of sharing the library apps and advertising our events.

The Hub Team recently attended a **training session** at Unit 17 (CC libraries HQ), Truro. It was very helpful to see the destination of our twice weekly 'crates' and the huge range of material we can offer the public. New library systems are emerging, and more digital resources and Apps are now being offered by Cornwall Libraries (**Borrow Box, Press Reader**

& Cloud Library), which we are already sharing with our readers. We returned buzzing with new knowledge and ideas for our library – a very successful and rewarding day.

This Month

Our February theme '**Looe Loves Books**' has been popular, incorporating Valentine's Day and more, we have promoted the theme with internal displays, Facebook posts as well as our main window display.

February Half Term began with a lively **Stories & Songs** Session lead by Donna and ended with some '**Forensic Fun**' a popular session led by the **local author, Emily Thuysbaert**. A mixed range attended and it was pleasing to see some older (KS2) children attending this session and using the library as they are a difficult age group to attract.

Going Forward

- On March 4th I will be joining the **Societies Day at the Millpool Centre**, sharing with other local groups what services we offer at Looe Library & Community Hub
- Richard Hamm is keen to host another **Antiques Valuation Session** in March and we are currently arranging a date for this
- The **Morris Minor Cub** of Cornwall are keen to use our private car Park to host a free event early summer to raise money for charity. If the event goes ahead, half of the money will go to the Boundless Trust and half to a charity they support)
- Sharon is currently completing a test run of the **Basic Computer Course on www.learnmyway** which we are planning to run over 3 sessions on Thursday afternoons, dates TBC. We have a list of names for people who are interested in doing the course
- We are in the early stages of planning an **Art Exhibition** inside the library
- Our next window display & promotion will be **St Piran's Day**

Catherine Foley
Library & Community Hub Supervisor
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